

House File 231 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 231

BY WHEELER and FISHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to elective biblical literacy courses offered
2 by school districts.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **279.50A Elective biblical literacy**
2 **course — requirements.**

3 1. If a school district offers an elective biblical literacy
4 course, the school district shall not knowingly violate any
5 provision of law as defined in section 17A.2. A biblical
6 literacy course offered in accordance with this section is
7 subject to federal and state guidelines regarding religious
8 neutrality, and the course so offered shall recognize and
9 acknowledge the diverse religious views, traditions, and
10 perspectives of students enrolled in the school district. The
11 course shall not endorse, favor, promote, or disfavor, or be
12 hostile toward, any particular religion, faith, or nonreligious
13 perspective.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill provides that if a school district offers a
18 biblical literacy course, the school district is prohibited
19 from violating any provision of law in offering the course.
20 Such a course is subject to federal and state guidelines
21 regarding religious neutrality, and must recognize and
22 accommodate the diverse religious views, traditions, and
23 perspectives of students enrolled in the school district. Such
24 a course shall not endorse, favor, promote, or disfavor, or be
25 hostile toward, any particular religion, faith, or nonreligious
26 perspective.